



MARINE CORPS HERITAGE FOUNDATION RECEIVED

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Commissioner Robert G. Taub, Chairman
Commissioner Michael M. Kubayanda, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Mark Acton
Commissioner Ann C. Fisher
Commissioner Ashley E. Poling
Postal Regulatory Commission
902 New York Ave., NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: Docket RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation Board and staff, our 72,000 plus donors and members of the United States Marine Corps family we serve – as well as the 400,000 plus patrons who visit the National Museum of the Marine Corps annually – I am writing to urge you to reconsider a recent proposal to increase postage rates several times the rate of inflation.

The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation was established in 1979 to preserve and promulgate the history, traditions and culture of the United States Marine Corps and to educate all Americans in its virtues. As such, the Marine Corps Heritage Center was conceived to tell, and preserve forever, the uniquely American story of contribution and sacrifice, valor and victory of the United States Marine Corps. It was designed to include a complex of facilities which include the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Semper Fidelis Memorial Park, artifact restoration and storage facilities.

The Foundation vigorously seeks financial support through fundraising and outreach to provide continued leadership, strategic direction and financial oversight in supporting and expanding programs at the National Museum of the Marine Corps and beyond its walls.

The bulk of our fundraising is, of course, conducted through direct mail. The proposed increases – which are estimated to reach as much as eight percent per year – will have not only a negative impact, but a disastrous impact, on the Foundation's ability to carry out its mission and will not substantially reform the United State Postal Service.

The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation is not able to increase its budget to keep pace with postage increases totaling 40 percent over the next five years. Quite simply, it would prevent us from being able to effectively attract new donors and maintain current programs, let alone grow them. Commemoration of historic anniversaries would not take place. Education initiatives that reach students and teachers would be



MARINE CORPS HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Page 2

RE: Docket RM2017-3

severely hampered. Outreach in the community would be restricted. Grants, scholarships and internships would be reduced, if not eliminated. Without the necessary funds, the Foundation will not be able to preserve and honor the legacy of United States Marines as they deserve.

The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation strongly urges the Postal Regulatory Commission to reconsider its proposal.

Sincerely,

Jennifer M. Vanderveld
Vice President, Marketing and Development
Marine Corps Heritage Foundation